

Dhaka Day by Day

The International Hostel in City

By M Mahub Hassan



Dhaka University campus where foreign students come with great hope.

There is a general belief that Bangladesh does not have a high quality higher education system. Despite that unhelpful perception, students from around 10 countries are currently studying at Dhaka University and its constituent institutions.

There is a separate dormitory to accommodate overseas students. Called the International Hostel, this hall of residence is, unfortunately, beset with various problems.

The hostel's 76 residential rooms are not enough to accommodate even half the foreign students currently studying in Dhaka. The hall's capacity to accommodate students has been further curtailed with the allotment of 18 rooms to university teachers, thus reducing the actual student accommodation capacity to only 58 rooms.

In an effort to get around the problem, many foreign students seek permission for what is known as "doubling", that is sharing a single room with a friend.

Students have to pay Taka 200 per month for this, and married couples have to pay Taka 500 per month. But no receipt is issued by the hostel authorities for these payments for "doubling".

University officials told this correspondent that the money taken is used to pay for the extra maintenance cost incurred as a result of doubling. The officials, however, did not explain why no receipt was issued for the payments.

Foreign students have to suffer much due to residential problem as rented houses are not always available for foreign students, as well as being very expensive.

Residents of the International Hostel have long been suffering from an acute scarcity of water. The hostel has no reserve tank of its own. It gets its water from the university's central pumping station, which is available for only three or four hours a day.

Normally the taps go dead around 8 O'clock in the morning and become alive again hardly for one hour in the evening. The suffering students have spoken to the Vice-Chancellor more than once with a hope to getting their problems solved, but in vain, even though they

were assured of immediate improvement. On top of that, many bathroom fittings are obsolete or out of order, with repair work taking a long time.

This hostel for students has no library or common room, and the frequent fluctuations in electricity voltage cause immense problems for those trying to study.

Lack of facilities for recreations adds to the monotony in the lives of the foreign students. In the afternoon, a few are found playing basketball or football in a small patch of grassy land in front of the hall, while most spend their leisure time walking, gossiping or just sitting idle.

Four years ago, the television set and table tennis equipment disappeared and since then the common room has remained barren and useless.

Rubbish is yet another problem, as the cleaning system is not at all satisfactory, with garbage not being taken care of regularly. The backyard of the hostel wears a grim and dirty look, as it never gets the touch of a broom.

Security arrangement is also very flexible and outsiders can easily get into the hostel. Guards are too weak to resist unwanted visitors.

A few months ago, two thieves climbed in from the back of the hall, and broke into a room carrying lethal weapons. One of the thieves was caught red-handed and handed over to the police.

However, foreign students residing in the International Hostel are relatively secure in an otherwise insecure Dhaka University campus. Foreign students have almost no interest in campus politics. Gunshots no longer frighten them as they are never its targets. And unscheduled closures do not require them to leave the hostel.

A Palestinian student, when asked why he decided to study here, said that the violence that occurred here was insignificant compared to what was happening in his motherland.

Not only that, an African student said he believed the quality of education in Bangladesh was somehow better than in his own country.



Journalist leaders protesting police attack on them.

—Star photo

'Increased rate of literacy can ensure national development'

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Professor Jahan-Ara Begum has said increasing the literacy rate was a pre-requisite for ensuring overall national development, reports BSS.

She was addressing the inaugural function of the Rajbari district mass education programme Saturday. The function was also addressed by Begum Farida Hasan MP.

Prof Jahan-Ara Begum said Shaheed Ziaur Rahman had initiated the mass education programme to increase the literacy rate in the country. She sought cooperation of all to make the programme a success.

Earlier in the morning the State Minister addressed the participants of a political training course here.

Speaking on the occasion Prof Jahan-Ara Begum said that educated political leaders and workers could play a significant role in giving democracy an institutional shape.

Food Inspectorate Assoc programme withdrawn

The Bangladesh Food Inspectorate Association has withdrawn its complete abstention-from-duty programme which was scheduled to begin today according to an official handout yesterday, reports BSS.

The Programme was withdrawn following satisfactory assurances from the Ministry of Food regarding their demands in a meeting yesterday between the high officials of the ministry and the office-bearers of the association, the handout said.

Weather

No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Weather forecast till 6 pm Monday says moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

Day temperature is likely to remain unchanged. Outlook for subsequent two days: rain fall activity likely to increase. Outlook for another five days: little change.

The temperature and humidity of some cities on Sunday were:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	33.2	27	82	78
Chittagong	33.5	26	72	82
Rajshahi	33.4	25.6	85	66
Khulna	32	25	82	83
Rangpur	32	25.8	83	76
Sylhet	32	22.7	93	72
Jessore	32.2	25.4	x	x

BTV
Monday

5.00 Opening announcement
Al Quran
Programme summary
5.10 News in Bangla
5.30 Cartoon film: Just you wait
6.00 Sports programme
6.30 Shikhyangon
7.05 TV debate
8.00 News in Bangla
8.30 Aponar Shastha
9.00 Kotha-o-Shoor
10.00 News in English
10.25 Parliament roundup
10.30 Film: High Way to Heaven
11.30 Khabar/ The News
11.40 Tuesday's programme summary
11.45 Closing

STAR TV
WORLD SERVICE TELEVISION
Monday

00:00 World News
00:25 How do you Manage?
01:00 World News
01:25 The Racing Game
02:00 World News
02:10 Assignment
03:00 World News
03:25 The Late Show 2
04:00 World News
04:25 The Late Show 2
05:00 World News
05:25 On the Record
06:00 World News
06:25 Everyman
07:00 World News
07:25 World Business Report
08:00 World News
08:25 Tomorrow's World
09:00 World News
09:15 The Money Programme
10:00 World News
10:25 Wogan
11:00 World Headlines
11:05 Documentary
12:00 World News
12:25 Where on Earth
13:00 World News
13:30 Business Morning
14:00 Morning News from London
14:25 Kilroy
15:00 World headlines
15:05 Documentary
16:00 World News
16:05 World News
18:25 Wogan
19:00 World News
19:25 Where on Earth
20:00 World News
20:25 News from London
21:00 World News
21:15 The Money Programme
22:00 World Headlines
22:05 Documentary
23:00 World News
23:25 Wogan

M
Monday

00:00 Music Videos — VJ
Danny McGill
03:00 Music Videos
05:00 The Day in Rock
05:30 1/2 Hour Comedy
06:00 Awake on the Wild Side
09:00 MTV Power Pack
10:00 MTV's Most Wanted
11:00 Classic MTV
12:00 Awake on the Wild Side
15:00 Music Videos — VJ
Danny McGill
Music Videos
18:00 They Day in Rock
20:30 1/2 Hour Comedy
21:00 MTV Power Pack
22:00 MTV's Most Wanted
23:00 Classic MTV

(Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)

STAR Plus
Monday

00:00 Blue Blood
01:00 Movie: Terror from Under the House
02:30 Jack Thompson Down Under
03:00 Relative Strangers
03:30 The Bold & the Beautiful
04:00 Donahue
05:00 Santa Barbara
06:00 Attitudes
07:00 Everyday Workout
07:30 Smogies
08:00 Animated Classics
09:00 Terrahawks
09:30 Return to Treasure Island
10:30 Jupiter Moon
11:00 Attitudes
12:00 Image Workshop
13:00 Santa Barbara
14:00 Donahue
15:00 Travel Travel
15:30 Fame Fortune & Romance
16:00 Frugal Gourmet
16:30 Mac & Mutley
17:00 Adventures on Kythera
17:30 Out of Control
18:00 Jupiter Moon
18:30 Jack Thompson Down Under
19:00 Video Fashion
19:30 Travel Travel
20:00 Blue Blood
20:50 Hollywood Stars
21:00 Movie: Lady Ice
22:30 Relative Strangers
23:00 The Bold & the Beautiful
23:30 Runaway with the Rich & Famous

(Please deduct 2 hours from above timings for Bangladesh Standard Time)



Dhaka city during hartal hours yesterday.

—Star photo

Mixed reaction over budget

M A Wahab, President of Bangladesh Jute Exporters Association and former president of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday hailed the national budget announced on Thursday last, reports BSS.

Supporting the reduction of income tax rates, he said it

would raise the tax collection. He, however, criticised the imposition of one per cent duty on export and said it would discourage the jute exporters.

Wahab demanded the withdrawal of this duty imposed on the export of jute and jute goods to boost earnings from this sector.

He also demanded fiscal support for the local industries for the sake of national interest.

The former FBCCI president suggested increased duty on the luxury items to discourage import of those items.

M. Shahjahan Ali Sheikh, Convenor and M. Mostafizur Rahman, Joint Convenor of Bangladesh Pannya Bhabohar Andolan in a joint statement here yesterday hailed the budget placed before the Parliament on Thursday and said it was a self-reliant and welfare-oriented budget, reports BSS.

They, however, criticised the liberal import policy of the government.

They urged the government to give protection for the country's textile industries for the sake of the greater national interest.

Begum Ives Rahman, President and Professor Khaleida Khanam, General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League, in their reaction, termed the budget as rich peoples' budget. They also criticised the government for placing the budget before the parliament in the absence of the opposition.

Housewife killed

A young housewife of village Bamoshur in Keraniganj upazila was allegedly strangled to death by her husband on Friday midnight, reports UNB.

The victim Shima (28), wife of auto-rickshaw driver Arif Hossain of the same village was being tortured by her husband since their marriage six years back, local people alleged.

They have two minor daughters—two and half years old Minakshi and another only one and half years old.

According to police, Minakshi is the witness of her father's brutality of her mother's strangulation to death.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Arif remained absconding since in the incident.

A case was filed with Keraniganj police.

Sultan's death condoled

Former minister and general secretary of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) Ziauddin Ahmed yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of former deputy speaker Barrister Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury, reports BSS.

In a message Ziauddin described late Sultan Ahmed as a great politician and parliamentarian and said he (Sultan) had dedicated himself for socio-political development of greater Chittagong. With his demise, Ziauddin said, the nation lost one of the best sons of the soil.

He expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

Anniversary of Matin Chowdhury's death June 24

The 11th anniversary of death of Dr Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Bose Prof of Physics and former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, will be observed on June, 24, reports UNB.

Matin Chowdhury was also founder-Chairman of the Bangabandhu Parishad.

A milad mahfil will be held on the day at 5:30 pm at the Banani residence of Razia Matin Chowdhury, said a press release yesterday.

All friends and wellwishers are requested to attend the milad.

Teesta, Ekota to run on June 22, 23

'Teesta' and 'Ekota' inter-city trains, both running between Dhaka and Dinajpur, will operate on their weekly holidays on June 22 (Monday) and June 23 (Tuesday) respectively a railway press release said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The Bangladesh Railway has taken the special measures to run these trains on their weekly holidays for convenience of the passengers, the press release said.

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This day three years ago we lost you



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In fond remembrance
The bereaved family and friends

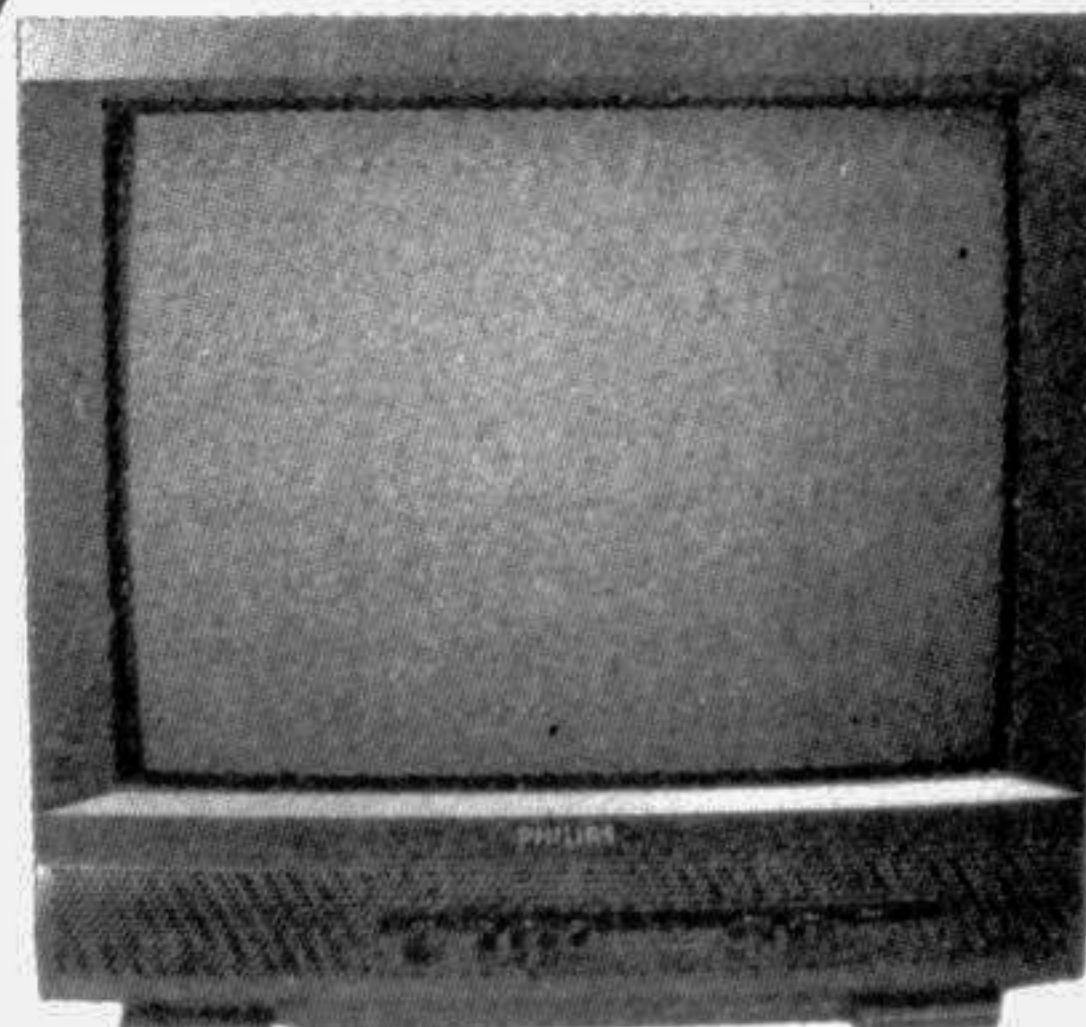
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